

PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SANITARY SURVEYOR

1951

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M.D., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J. A. SEDGWICK,
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Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector



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MANSION HOUSE,
PENRITH,
16th June, 1952.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Penrith Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council,

I have pleasure in presenting my Sixteenth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1951.

This Report is prepared on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951.

The population is estimated at 11,500 by the Registrar General, an increase of 50 on that given at mid-year 1950, and the final Census figures for 1951 are not yet available.

The vital statistics for the year under review remain favourable with a low death rate 11.31 (corrected) and a birth rate of 16.91 (corrected) which compare with 12.5 and 15.5 for England and Wales.

Four of the five infantile deaths did not survive beyond 14 hours, and the fifth death at the City Maternity Home in Carlisle was due to Broncho-Pneumonia, aged 2 weeks.

There were no deaths from Maternal or Puerperal causes and no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough; and for the seventh year there were no cases of Diphtheria, the artificial immunisation campaign commenced in the year 1937 being carried on with marked success as in previous years.

In this connection the last recorded case of Diphtheria was in December, 1944.

It is vitally important for the public to realise that the enemy Diphtheria is always lurking in the background and that any neglect of immunisation would inevitably bring back this dreaded disease.

This triumph of preventive medicine is illustrated by the figures for your area—during 16 years the only death from Diphtheria was a non-immunised child in the year 1942.

Scarlet Fever is now a relatively mild disease with fewer complications than formerly ; this happy state of affairs may be partly caused by the introduction of “ M & B ” some years since.

The hospitalisation of Scarlet Fever is now confined to the case with exceptional home circumstances.

During the year one case of Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis was reported from the Isolation Block of the Cumberland Infirmary.

Measles which was epidemic during the first half of the year involved practically the entire district and ceased at mid-summer ; on the other hand Whooping Cough persisted throughout the year with relatively small outbreaks here and there.

The Heart Disease Group again easily heads the list as the commonest factor at death, with Cerebral Apoplexies as the next chief cause ; there were 14 deaths from Cancer, three fewer than in 1950.

As this is my last report to your Council I wish to record the marked improvement in Sanitary conditions which has occurred among the 31 Rural Schools in the area ; at the moment of writing there is only one school, viz. Ivegill, where no positive action has been taken to abolish insanitary privy middens.

There were no cases during 1951 calling for action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

As in previous reports the details of the water undertakings are given in the Water Engineer's Report, and notes re Drainage and Sewerage are also included in the Surveyor's Report.

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. GAVIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (in acres)	...	...	...	...	181,531
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	3,399
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£51,205
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£204	19s. 8d.
Registrar General's estimate of the population	...	...	...	...	11,500
Live Births :—		Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	...	93	80	173	
Illegitimate	...	4	5	9	
				<hr/> 182	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	16.91
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.5
Still Births :—		Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	...	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1	
				<hr/> 5	
Rate per 1,000 (total births live and still)	...	...	...	...	26.73
Deaths :—		Male	Female	Total	
		78	65	143	
Death Rate per 1,000 of population (standardised)	...	...	...	...	11.31
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	12.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year :—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	27.47
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	27.47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	29.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 181,531 acres, and according to the estimate of the Registrar-General the population at mid-year 1951 was 11,500.

Agricultural work is the chief source of employment in the district, and there are lime works at Newbiggin, Blencowe and Redhills, also paper mills and alabaster works at Little Salkeld; the B.B.C. short-wave station at Skelton employs many engineers and others, and there are quarries and breeze-block manufacturing plants in operation.

VITAL STATISTICS.

I am indebted to Dr. Kenneth Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following vital statistics relating to the County of Cumberland:—

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Administrative County of Cumberland	17.1	13.2	34
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	17.2	13.2	32
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.1	13.1	35
Rural District of Penrith	16.91	12.43	27.47
England and Wales	15.5	12.5	29.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1951.

Five deaths of infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1951 compared with only 1 death in 1950.

It is to be noted that all these deaths occurred under 4 weeks of age, and four failed to survive 24 hours.

The details are as follows:—

- (i) Male child died of Acute Pulmonary Atelectasis 14 hours old.
- (ii) Male child died at the City Maternity Home, Carlisle, from Broncho Pneumonia, aged 2 weeks,

(iii) & (iv) Male twins died of Prematurity at the City Maternity Home, Carlisle, aged 11 hours and 8 hours respectively.

(v) Male child died at Chertsey Hill Nursing Home, Carlisle, from Neonatal Asphyxia, only surviving for $\frac{1}{2}$ minute.

Infantile Death Rate for 1951	27.47
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Rate for England and Wales	29.6
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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The provision of Health Services in the area is as follows :—

1. The Medical Officer of Health has a similar appointment with The Penrith Urban District Council, and he also acts as Assistant County Medical Officer for the Cumberland County Council. His qualifications are M.D., Ch. B. (Edinburgh), D.P.H. (Edinburgh & Glasgow).

The Sanitary Surveyor has a full time appointment. His qualifications include the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Council also engage the services of a whole time Architect in connection with the erection of houses under the post-war housing programme.

Two unqualified male assistants are engaged in the work of the Health and Water Departments.

Two fitters and two labourers are employed to carry out the work of attending to water supplies in the area. A Filter House Attendant is employed permanently at the Dowthwaite Head Filtration Works, of the Council's main regional water supply.

It has recently been the policy of the Council to carry out all water mains extensions and small sewer extensions by means of direct labour, and for this purpose a casual labour gang of some ten men is retained.

One driver and two refuse loaders are employed to collect refuse in the area.

2. With regard to laboratory facilities and hospital services no changes have been made during the period under review.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

No action has been taken by the County Council in pursuance of Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, nor has any action been taken under Section 307, or Section 320 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am obliged to Mr. J. A. Sedgwick, Sanitary Surveyor, for the following Report :—

Mansion House,
Penrith,

June, 1952.

To :—Dr. F. W. Gavin,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1951 as follows :—

Water Supplies.

Supplies of water for distribution in the area are obtained from 16 separate sources, 15 of which are direct from springs and one from a stream intake. The latter supply from Aira Beck distributing some 320,000 gallons per day is the only one receiving filtration treatment. This is carried out at Dowthwaite Head Filter House, Matterdale. The filter plant comprises four 8 ft. 0 ins. diameter pressure filters of the Paterson type, with the necessary chemical apparatus for the addition of hydrated lime and sulphate of alumina before filtration. It is also necessary as a protective measure to add up to 0.75 grains of hydrated lime per gallon to the filtered water. A chlorination plant is also installed at the works.

Samples of water from all the Council's sources of supply are taken regularly for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Normally the analyst's reports indicate that the water is of a pure and wholesome nature. It is not however unusual during wet weather for samples taken from sources on the Eastern side of the area, to show evidences of pollution, attributable to stock grazing in the vicinity of the gathering grounds. This pollution is of slight duration and generally is rapidly eliminated.

Whilst the Aira Beck supply is regarded as being suspicious from a point of view of plumbo-solvency no evidence of this has been found upon examination.

None of the other sources are plumbo-solvent.

Copies of Analyst's Reports on the main sources of supply are given below :—

CUMBERLAND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Cumberland Infirmary,
Carlisle.

Report No. 13778,
28. 6. 51.

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Time and place of sample taken—

Taken at Low Heskett (Clint) on the 25th June, 1951.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—Nil.

CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.

pH.—7.6.

	parts per 100,000
Free and saline ammonia	0.001
Albuminoid ammonia	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27°C. ..	0.004
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C. ..	0.012
Total Solids	14.8
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—Total	10.6
Permanent	3.5
Temporary	7.1
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.7
Heavy metals	0.0
Nitrates	0.0
Nitrites	0.0

Opinion—Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,

Chemist.

CUMBERLAND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Cumberland Infirmary,
Carlisle.

Report No. 13776,
28. 6. 51.

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Time and place of sample taken—

Taken at Kirkoswald (Wadygill Supply) on the 25th June, 1951.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—Nil.

CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.

pH.—6.8.

	parts per 100,000
Free and saline ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid ammonia	0.006
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27 °C. ..	0.004
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27 °C. ..	0.008
Total Solids	9.1
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—Total	7.5
Permanent	4.6
Temporary	2.9
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.8
Heavy metals	0.0
Nitrates	0.0
Nitrites	0.0

Opinion—Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,

Chemist.

CUMBERLAND PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Cumberland Infirmary,
Carlisle.

Report No. 12729,
13. 6. 51.

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Time and place of sample taken—

Taken at Dowthwaite Head (Ivegill) on 11th June, 1951.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml.—Nil.

CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube—Clear and colourless.

pH.—8.0.

	parts per 100,000
Free and saline ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid ammonia	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27 °C. ..	0.036
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27 °C. ..	0.076
Total Solids	4.4
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—Total	3.7
Permanent	2.4
Temporary	1.3
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.6
Heavy metals	0.0
Nitrates	0.0
Nitrites	0.0

Opinion—Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,

Chemist.

The following table, divided into Parishes, gives the estimated particulars of the population, number of occupied dwelling houses, and the number of such houses connected with the public service main :—

Parish.	Population.	No. of Houses.	No. of Houses supplied.	Population Served. Direct to House.	From Standpipe.
Ainstable ...	525	156	134	420	22
Castle Sowerby ...	529	103	99	499	—
Catterlen ...	254	90	90	254	—
Culgaith ...	664	197	196	648	12
Dacre ...	879	280	269	835	5
Glassonby ...	339	93	85	312	—
Great Salkeld ...	368	113	103	305	6
Greystoke ...	437	152	147	412	10
Hesket ...	2039	564	535	1840	36
Hunsonby ...	377	109	105	364	—
Hutton ...	347	95	89	332	—
Kirkoswald ...	792	242	180	562	20
Langwathby ...	471	175	166	434	8
Lazonby ...	619	209	190	557	10
Matterdale ...	637	184	69	223	—
Mungrisdale ...	372	101	66	253	—
Ousby ...	380	107	99	352	—
Skelton ...	891	270	255	832	18
Threlkeld ...	580	159	122	424	10
	11,500	3,399	2,999	9,858	157

From the foregoing statistics it will be seen that approximately 87% of the total population of the area is in receipt of a piped supply of water from the Council's mains, and that less than 400 houses (12%), out of a total of 3,399, do not benefit from the Council's supplies.

The average daily consumption throughout the year is calculated at 620,000 gallons or just slightly less than 62 gallons per head per day.

This cannot be regarded as an unduly high consumption in an agricultural area, predominantly dairying in character with a large and increasing number of tuberculin tested producers. The unfortunate result of milk production on such a large and intensive scale is that there occurs a twice daily demand for considerable quantities of water for milk cooling purposes during strictly limited hours. When the majority of the Council's extensive network of service mains were laid down the area was practically wholly stock-rearing and consequently no provision was made to meet milk cooling demands. Consequently the carrying capacities of the mains are now insufficient at certain times to cope satisfactorily with such peak demands, with the unavoidable result that some consumers in high lying parts of the area suffer from intermittency of supply. To alleviate this position such consumers are advised to instal storage tanks to provide an emergency reserve of water for use during the temporary failure of the mains supply. In certain cases the Council make a grant towards the cost of such installations.

Such intermittency of supply is particularly acute in the Lamonby, Johnby, Newbiggin (Dacre), Catterlen and Newton Reigny areas. The scheme prepared for the improvement of these supplies by the laying of a 3 inch main from High Larches reservoir direct to Lamonby and a 6 inch main from the same reservoir via Johnby to Blencowe has now received Ministry approval. The necessary pipes and fittings are on order but owing to the long delivery period for spun iron main it is not anticipated that any work can possibly commence before the late summer of 1953 unless the supply position improves rapidly.

The Council have now practically completed their policy of metering all supplies on agricultural holdings where practicable, which has resulted in a general improvement in distribution occasioned by the prevention of avoidable waste.

Waste water detection continues to be maintained at a very high level in this area, and the loss from fractured mains or defective fittings can be regarded as negligible.

Sewerage.

So far as the provision of modern sewage disposal facilities for the villages of Skelton, Skirwith, High Hesket, Blencowe, Kirkoswald, Armathwaite, Ainstable and Motherby are concerned, progress in the preparation and submission of schemes, for the approval of the Minister of Local Government and Housing, has been very disappointing, and the position is substantially the same as last year.

Serious nuisances exist in all these villages, the satisfactory abatement of which is a practical impossibility without the availability of sewerage schemes. Another serious consideration from the point of view of the Council is that the cost of carrying out such schemes is constantly rising and in many cases making the unit cost per house served, in many cases, practically prohibitive.

The work of substituting water closets for privy middens by individual owners in areas where sewerage schemes are remote or non-existent continues to make satisfactory progress, although licensing difficulties occasioned by an absurdly low annual " Ceiling " undoubtedly deters the more rapid expansion of this class of work.

Refuse Collection.

As in previous years the refuse disposal scheme on the basis of one collection per fortnight covers practically the whole of this large and comparatively scattered rural area, but it would now appear that the limit of the area of collection has now been reached.

For collection purposes a C.K.3 Karrier Refuse Vehicle is employed. In practice this vehicle has proved to be particularly satisfactory in this district where long hauls between points of collection and disposal sites are unavoidable.

As it stands, the method of collection using one vehicle only manned by a driver and two loaders can be regarded as exceptionally efficient and economic. To extend the refuse collection to remote and scattered communities in the area would necessitate the acquisition of another vehicle plus driver and two loaders. In other words it would entail doubling the present cost of collections.

Modern and successful methods of rodent control are operated at all the Council's Refuse Tips in consequence of which rat infestations are of a temporary character only.

Schools.

Schools in the area are regularly inspected, particular attention being paid to the provision and maintenance of satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

The accommodation provided at the majority of schools is most satisfactory although lack of adequate sewage disposal facilities results in the provision of pail closets at Plumpton and High Hesket and a privy midden at Ivegill.

Factories Act, 1937.

All factories in the area are periodically inspected, remedial measures being insisted upon where irregularities are found.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Regular inspections are made of all food shops in the area, particular attention being paid to the proper storage of foodstuffs, notably those of a perishable character.

The attention of shop-keepers and all food handlers is drawn constantly to the care required in the maintenance of a proper standard of hygiene where foodstuffs are concerned. Care is taken to ensure that metal containers with fitted lids are provided for the reception of waste material.

During the course of food inspection the following items of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

60½ lbs. Khaki Campbell ducks.
48 lbs. tinned ham.
15 lbs. bacon.
1 tin of meat.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection of premises is carried out following upon notification of cases of infectious disease immediately after removal of the patient to hospital, or upon the termination of the illness where detention in an infectious diseases hospital is deemed not to be necessary.

It has not been necessary during the year to deal with any filthy or verminous premises, or to deal with any house infested with bed bugs.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Milk sampling has been resumed under the above Regulations, and samples are now being taken twice yearly from accredited and ungraded producer-retailers. These are forwarded to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory for biological testing for tubercle.

The results of this sampling are as follows :—

Total samples taken	...	...	...	53
Samples found positive for T.B.	...	...	...	2
Samples found negative for T.B.	...	...	...	51

Ice Cream.

There is only one producer of ice cream in the area. The premises of this producer are regularly inspected, and samples are frequently taken to ensure that the product is in all respects fit for consumption.

New Houses.

The Council are proceeding slowly and steadily with their programme of providing houses for agricultural and other workers in as many localities in their area as possible. The rapidity of progress is unfortunately retarded seriously by difficulty in locating sites to which no objection can be raised by any of the multiplicity of Government and other departments concerned who must be consulted and their approval obtained before even a building contractor can be approached. In practice it has been found that no way exists of anticipating the requirements of these departments, some of which cannot be commended for the rapidity of their decisions.

Since the cessation of the last war, houses have been built by the Council on the undermentioned sites :—

Lazonby	8	Ainstable	4
Langwathby	8	Low Braithwaite	2
Culgaith	8	Pallet Hill	2
Hunsonby	6	Catterlen... ..	2
Newbiggin	10	Skirwith	6
Stainton	6	Glassonby	4
Low Hesket	6	Renwick	4
Calthwaite	8	Auldby	2
Edenhall	4	Low Plains	4
Greystoke	8	Armathwaite	2
Great Salkeld	4	Mellguards	2
Howes	2	Aikbank	4
Ousby	2	Melmerby	6
Salkeld Dykes	2	Skelton	6
Blencowe	4		
Plumpton	6		

During the war 16 houses were erected by the Council as under :—

Thiefside ...	...	4	Kirkoswald	
Culgaith ...	...	4	(Highbankhill)	4
Low Hesket ...	...	2	Newton Reigny ...	2
				—
				16
				—

Prior to the war the Council had erected 63 houses in various parts of the area as under :—

Clickem (Blencowe)	4	Hutton End ...	2
Catterlen ...	2	Kirkoswald ...	6
Culgaith ...	4	Langwathby ...	6
Dacre ...	2	Lazonby ...	8
Plumpton ...	3	Threlkeld ...	6
Stainton ...	6	Calthwaite ...	3
Southwaite ...	2	Low Hesket ...	4
Hunsonby ...	5		—
			63
			—

In all the Council have now completed 221 Council Houses and at the end of the year 26 houses were in various stages of erection.

In addition 34 houses since the war have been erected by private enterprise.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. SEDGWICK,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of Inspections Made.

Workshops...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Petrol Stores	...	...	...	...	...	69
Carbide Stores	...	...	...	...	...	4
Works in Progress—New Drains, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	252
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	202
General Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	385
Inspections <i>re</i> Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	118
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	46
Inspections of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	51

Works Carried Out.

Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	30
New Spouting fixed	...	...	...	...	...	34
Air Drains fixed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors relaid and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Walls repaired or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	96
Scullery Sinks trapped	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water Closets constructed	...	...	...	...	...	80
Sewers and Drains repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	54
New Septic Tanks built	...	...	...	...	...	29
Water Supplies carried to houses	...	...	...	...	...	46
New Baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	32
New Houses completed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Houses altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	85
New Windows fixed	...	...	...	...	...	38
New Ceilings put up or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	30
New Slop Sinks fitted to houses	...	...	...	...	...	20
Obstructed Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	42
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	63

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases.	AGES.												TOTAL.	Admitted to Isolat'n Hosp	Deaths.	
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-				
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	3	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	14	..
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	5	..	12	..	2
Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	5	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Measles	2	20	24	23	17	75	14	1	6	1	1	..	..	184	1	..
Whooping Cough	8	9	14	8	10	41	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	96	..	..
														319	18	2
														Totals		

Smallpox.

There were no cases of this disease and no known contacts in this area during 1951.

Scarlet Fever.

Sixteen cases were notified during 1951, one less than in the previous year, and with two exceptions all were admitted to Isolation Hospital for treatment and made a good recovery.

These cases were scattered throughout the district apart from three cases which occurred in one household near Great Salkeld in July.

Three cases were in pre-school age children and thirteen were schoolchildren.

The hospitalisation of cases of Scarlet Fever is now discouraged by the hospital authorities, and in future only cases with exceptionally difficult home circumstances will be admitted to an isolation hospital, *e.g.* where overcrowding or grossly defective housing conditions or other exceptional factors are present, and the Medical Officer of Health has power to order hospitalisation in these cases.

Scarlet Fever remains a mild disease with few complications at the present time.

Diphtheria.

For the seventh successive year there were no cases of Diphtheria in this area, and the following table shows the number notified and deaths from this cause which have occurred during the past 23 years:—

Year.			Cases.			Deaths.
1929	...	...	11	...	...	2
1930	...	...	2	...	...	Nil
1931	...	...	8	...	...	Nil
1932	...	...	2	...	...	1
1933	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1934	...	...	7	...	...	2
1935	...	...	5	...	...	Nil
1936	...	...	8	...	...	Nil
*1937	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1938	...	...	3	...	...	Nil
1939	...	...	2	...	...	Nil
1940	...	...	1	...	...	Nil
1941	...	...	1	...	...	Nil
1942	...	...	3	...	...	1
1943	...	...	2	...	...	Nil
1944	...	...	4	...	...	Nil
1945	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1946	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1947	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1948	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1949	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1950	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
1951	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil

*Immunisation commenced in the Penrith Rural Schools.

In this connection immunisations were carried out in the Penrith Rural Schools during the year 1937, and the only death which has occurred since was in 1942 when a pre-school age child who had not been immunised died from this disease. The National Campaign of artificial immunisation against this disease has been energetically pursued during 1951 as in previous years.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.

Twelve cases were notified compared with sixteen in the previous year and, as in the year 1950, 83% of these cases occurred in the first five months of the year with one death in March (male aged 71 years).

There were only two cases in the period June to December inclusive.

Baccillary Dysentery (Sonne).

Only five cases were reported in 1951 (40 cases in 1950), and these occurred in widely scattered localities—three were in January, one in February and one in November, the latter case having been infected outside the Rural Area.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

One case (male aged 14 years) was notified in April and after treatment at the Isolation Block, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, he made a good recovery with no residual symptoms.

The outlook in this disease has been vastly improved since the introduction of the new antibiotic drugs, *e.g.* penicillin, etc., and the Sulphonamides.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

One case (male 13 years) labelled "Abortive Poliomyelitis" was notified on 22nd August, 1951, and it is noted that he became ill while on holiday at Workington, and he was treated at the Isolation Block, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, from 17th August, 1951, until his discharge to his home at Lazonby on 29th August, 1951.

In this connection Lazonby Village had been chosen as a "negative" village for the virological investigation conducted by the Medical Research Council in the attempt to isolate the virus of this disease from sewer swabs placed in numbered manholes and recorded on a map of the village.

Thirty sewer manholes were swabbed on 17th April, 1951, and again on 25th June, 1951, at Lazonby village—the swabs were left *in situ* for three day periods on each occasion and then despatched to London.

It is noted, however, that this “ abortive case ” only came to live at Lazonby on 30th June, 1951, *i.e.* after the second sewer swabbing had been completed, and that he had previously been domiciled in the town of Penrith.

The results of these investigations at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, London, are awaited with interest.

Measles.

The epidemic which had commenced in December, 1950, continued during the first half of the year 1951 with peak periods in April and May and a total of 179 cases, of which 89 were school-children, 86 under school age children, and 9 adults. Practically the whole of the Penrith Rural Area was involved but the Threlkeld, Mungrisdale, Matterdale and Great Salkeld districts remained free from cases.

Fortunately there were no deaths from this cause, and one case was known to have had “ Encephalitis,” a very serious complication, but happily recovered at the Isolation Block, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

Whooping Cough.

There were 96 cases notified in 1951, scattered throughout the district and occurring throughout the year in each month except February.

Of the 96 cases, 46 were schoolchildren and 1 adult; the remainder were pre-school age children.

Villages chiefly affected were Stainton, Watermillock, Greystoke, Hunsonby, Calthwaite, Skelton, Penruddock, Plumptre, Catterlen, Lazonby and Langwathby. There were no deaths from this disease and the outlook as regards artificial immunisation is distinctly promising.

Anthrax.

On 30th January, 1951, and on 19th August, 1951, notices were received that suspected cases of this disease had occurred at Ousby, Berrier and Hesket-new-Market respectively, but all three notices were subsequently withdrawn following reports from the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture directed to examine the suspected carcasses.

Cattle, sheep and horses are the animal hosts of chief importance but Anthrax can also infect man and cases occur chiefly among persons working with hides, hair of cattle, etc., *e.g.* tanners, wool-sorters, etc.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No case of food poisoning was notified in the year 1951.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES, 1951.

AGES.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respir.		Respiratory		Non-Respir.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
To one year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	4	4	2	1	—	—	—

Of the eight pulmonary cases added to the register during the year 1951 four were transferred from other areas. Six cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified—two were glandular, two abdominal and two were joint disease, and in this connection special investigations of the milk supplies concerned were made by the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Milk sampling is undertaken by your authority on behalf of the County Council only in cases where ungraded milk is retailed within the Penrith Rural Area.

The value of this procedure has been demonstrated recently on two farms where positive samples for M. Tuberculosis were found, and the offending cows were detected by the Veterinary Officer and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis amongst persons employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1951, is 31, an increase of 9 as compared with the number at the end of the year 1950.

Pulmonary	Males.		Pulmonary.	Females.	
	Non-pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary.	
11	...	5	11	...	4

CANCER MORTALITY.

Deaths from Cancer number 15, giving a rate of 1.30 per 1,000 population and compared with 16 deaths in 1950 and a rate of 1.39.

Alimentary System :—				Males.		Females.	
	Stomach	...	...	1	...	1	
	Colon	...	...	2	...	—	
	Rectum	...	...	—	...	1	
	Pancreas	...	...	1	...	1	
	Gall Bladder	...	...	1	...	—	
Orbital	...	...	...	1	...	—	
Lungs (Bronchus)	...	...	...	1	...	—	
Reproductive System :—							
	Breast	...	...	—	...	2	
	Ovarian	...	...	—	...	2	
	Urethra	...	...	—	...	1	
Total				—	7	—	8

The average age at death was 63 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

					Males.	Females.	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...			1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...		1	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Cancer of Stomach	...	...	...		2	1	3
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	...	...			1	—	1
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Cancers					4	5	9
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...				9	13	22
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...			12	8	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...				1	4	5
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...		13	17	30
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...			4	—	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System...					1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...				2	—	2
Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhœa	...				—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...		1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...		1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...			1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases...					8	7	15
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...			2	—	2
All Other Accidents	...	...	...		5	2	7
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War	...				1	—	1
					<hr/> 78	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 143
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

FACTORIES.

					Number on Register.	Inspections.
Factories	...	...	...	...	53	118

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

					Found.	Remedied.
Unsuitable or Defective	...	...	...	...	1	1

OUTWORK.

					Outworkers.
Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	...	1

